THE
Theatrical Observer;
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—OTHELLO.

No. 2523 *Wednesday, Jan.* 13, 1830. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing!"—Ask for *Thomas's Observer*.

Drury Lane Theatre.

THE double (we suppose we ought to say triple) attraction of Vestris, and the Siamese Youths, crowded this Theatre last night in every part. The Opera of *Artaxerxes* was the first piece, and, on the whole, we never saw it so wretchedly performed. Vestris herself was extremely ineffective, and her air of 'In infancy,' so feebly applauded, and the encore so partial, that she would not sing it again, and Wallack was obliged to come forward and *say* she was indisposed, &c.—Miss Betts was in fine voice, and was rapturously encored in 'The Soldier tired.'—Hers was the only effective performance. The Farce of *The Citizen* was the second piece, in which Vestris acted the part of *Maria*, for the first time, and by her gaiety and spirit, and the delightful manner with which she gave her snatches of popular airs, proved that her indisposition was of a *very temporary nature*. Soon after the commencement of *Artaxerxes*, the Siamese Youths, numerously accompanied, entered a proscenium box, and were received with some applause, which they acknowledged by bowing. For our own parts, we thought it any thing but a pleasing sight; their movements were not invariably simultaneous, and they often appeared gené. They seemed amused at first more with the audience than the acting, but after a time attended to the stage, and the Pantomime appeared at once to excite their wonder and delight. We should have liked much to have heard their remarks, and particularly what they thought of their own resemblances.

Covent Garden Theatre.

LAST night the new *petite* Comedy of *A Husband's Mistake* was performed at this Theatre, after which was produced a new Farce, entitled *The Phrenologists*:—it is from the pen of Mr. Wade, the author of *Woman's Love*, and although the incidents are certainly improbable, yet in a Farce this is allowable, and *The Phrenologists* is a Farce of the *broadest* kind in more senses than one; it can hardly be said to possess a plot, such as it does is as follows:—Pinchley, Jun. (Balls,) runs away from his father's country house in Calcutta, comes to England, hires a rascally footman, and proceeds to seek his fortune; by one of those *probable* incidents common in Farces, he fixes himself in the house of his uncle, Mr. Cranium, (Blanchard,) on whom he imposes himself as an amateur phrenologist, and at last, in the usual way, marries his cousin, and is reconciled to his father,

who comes from India in pursuit of him; his servant Quickset, (Mr. Wrench,) also marries Laura, (Mrs. Keeley,) while Sampson, (Mr. Keeley) is united to Mrs. Bracer, (Mrs. J. Hughes).

This Farce has mingled with some wretchedly stale puns, and most abortive witticisms, much ludicrous situations, and some very happy hits at the science of Phrenology; but it requires much weeding of the *double-entendres* too profusely scattered throughout. It was heard to the end with much applause, although towards the conclusion a good deal of opposition was shewn, and Mr. Bartley announced it for repetition amidst a mingled storm of applause and hisses. The performers all did well, but Keeley was the life and soul of the piece: his acting had a richness and *gusto* about it perfectly inimitable; his examination of Wrench's head, elicited a truth so perfect that the Farce ought to live if only for that; he says—'ideality *very* small, and all the other organs strongly *evincing* that *natur* intended you for a singing man;' the audience evidently felt this most happy hit. Mrs. Keeley's part was quite unworthy her talents, added to which, several gross insinuations were put into her mouth.—The house was full.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

Dear Mr. Editor, I address you from the Cigar Divan, King-street, Covent Garden, having just popt in to take a cup of Coffee, whiff a true Havannah, kill an hour over one or two of the Morning and Evening Papers—skim the Magazines, and play a game of Chess—delightful place——Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention, that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends, and the fashionable world, at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.

On Monday, must take another peep at the two grand views, at the Diorama, Regent's Park—was puzzled to decide which was the most beautiful, St. Peter's, or the Village of Thiers—both exquisitely painted—the pictorial illusion complete—the water flowing, smoke ascending, sun shining—quite nature itself.—Had difficulty to persuade a fair lady next me, that we were really viewing merely pictures. Shall put off my journey to Italy, as I'm told, *sub rosa*, we shall have other views from that classic soil; and if as good as St. Peter's will satisfy me.

On my return through Regent Street I step in to see the Wonders of Illusion, displayed by Art, at the Cosmorama.—The Palace of the Grand Seignor, The City of Grand Cairo, Grand Temple of Edfou in Egypt, Cherbourg, Cape St. Vincent, Mont St. Gothard, with the Devil's Bridge and the Falls of the Reuss in motion, and the last terrific Eruption of Mount Vesuvius—truly awful!—with others not less interesting; forming together 14 Views, being the largest ever exhibited in London.

On Tuesday, I drop into the Exhibition of Sculpture, in Old Bond Street, to view the figures, life size, of Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnny—work of a self-taught artist, James Thom—delighted beyond measure—fully expected to hear Tam's uproarious laugh—the expression so perfect; *pose* of figures admirable. Whoever has read Burns, (and who has not?) must see them—This very ingenious Exhibition closes in the course of a few weeks.

On Friday, I drop in to examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle-Work, in Leicester Square.

I daily, between 1 and 4, qualify Mrs. Pry's discordant notes with some harmony divine, and may be found at *The Apollonicon*, 104, St. Martin's Lane.—Market and Fishermen's Chorus, from the Opera of Masaniello, enchanting! but I intrude—beg pardon. Your's, PAUL PRY.

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Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening the Play of The

Merchant of Venice.

Duke of Venice, Mr YOUNGE, Antonio, Mr AITKEN,
Bassanio, Mr COOPER, Salanio, Mr J. VINING, Salarino, Mr LEE,
Shylock, Mr KEAN,
Gratiano, Mr BROWNE, Launcelot, Mr HARLEY,
Lorenzo.....Mr SINCLAIR, Gobbo.....Mr WEBSTER,
Tubal, Mr HUGHES, Balthazar, Mr HONNER.
Nerissa .....Mrs ORGER, Jessica.....Miss BETTS,
Portia, Miss PHILLIPS.

To conclude with (16th time) a new Grand Comic Pantomime, called

Jack in the Box;

Or, Harlequin and the Princess

OF THE HIDDEN ISLAND.

The Music by T. Cooke.—The whole Invented by Mr W. Barrymore
Flickerflame. the Goblin, Miss LANE, Glimmer, Mr SHERIFF,
Jack in the Box. Mr RICHARDSON, Blueblaze, Mr S. JONES,
Peep-Ho, Guardian of the Adamant Box, & Pantaloon, Mr BARNES.
High-ho, a Knight on a love-errand, & Harlequin, Mr HOWELL,
Rum-go, his Squire and Follower, & Clown, Mr J. S. GRIMALDI,
Luciana, Princess of the Hidden Island, & Columbine, Miss RYAL,
Ho-fum, the Giant Genius, Mr Altesse, Hi-fum, Madame Treslong,
Fum-she, the Giant's only Child, Mr WIELAND,
Mammi Pappi, her Nurse, Mr Bartlett, Kee-loc, Mr Brady,
Stoo-Pan, the Giant's Head Cook, Mr CHIKINI,
Hon. Mr Trifletime, with a Song..... Miss POOL,
Old Flying Dutchman, Mr Salter, New Flying Dutchman, Mr Lapwing,
Siamese Youths, with an united Pas Deux, Mess. Wieland & Chikini,
Doctor Syntax, Mr Eaton, Master Griskin, Mr Wieland,
Mushapug, the Monkey, the Phænomenon, Mvn. VON KLESHNIG,

New Grand Scenery.

Scene 1 The Enchanted Grove and Goblin Abode (Stanfield) With Fairy Vision of the Hidden Island—2 Exterior of Ho-Fum's Palace (Andrews)—3 The Giant's Dining Parlour (Marinari)—4 Ascent to the Burning Mount, with Beacon Light (Stanfield)—5 The Crater, by Moonlight (Stanfield)—6 Splendid City of the Mists in the Hidden Islands (Stanfield)—7 Lime Kilns near Gravesend (Andrews)—8 New Post Office at 8 A. M. (Marinari) 9 The West End at 9 A. M. (Marinari)—10 A Little Way out of Town—(Andrews)—11 Veluti in Speculum (Andrews) With a Pas de Deux by Mr Howell and Miss Ryal—Les Ombres, Mr Chikini and Miss Macdonald—12 Cheesemonger's Shop and Wine Vaults (Adams)—13 Mount Edgecombe—(Stanfield)—14 Gloucester Coffee House—Snowy Night (Andrews)

Stanfield's Grand Local Diorama,

Displaying—Windsor—Town and Castle of Windsor—The River near Breens Meadow, Sunset, with Eaton, by Moonlight—Windsor Great Park—The Castle—Plantations near the Royal Lodge—Virginia Waters—The Royal Pavilion—The Upper Lake—The Dry Arch—To conclude with a grand Display of the Falls of the Virginia Waters, in which 30 tons of Water will be introduced.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, the Tragedy of

Venice Preserved.

Duke of Venice, Mr BAKER,
Priuli, Mr EGERTON, Bedamer, Mr DIDDEAR,
Jaffier, Mr WARDE,
Renault, Mr EVANS, Spinosa, Mr IRWIN,
Pierre, Mr C. KEMBLE
Elliot, Mr HORREBOW, Mezzana, Mr SUTTON,
Captain of the Guard, Mr MEARS,
Theodore, Mr J. COOPER, Durand, Mr GRANT.
Belvidera, Miss FANNY KEMBLE.

To conclude with (16th time) a new Grand Comic Pantomime, called

Harlequin and Cock Robin;

Or Vulcan and Venus.

With new Music, Scenery, Machinery, Dresses, and Decorations. The whole produced under the direction of Mr FARLEY.

Vulcan, Mr FULLER, Cyclops, Messrs. Purday, Ransford, Tett, &c.
Æsop, Mr MEARS, Clout, the Farmer, Mr HENRY,
Robnail, his Apprentice.....(afterwards Clown).....Mr PAULO,
Cuddie, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr ELLAR,
Pantaloon..... .Mr F. SUTTON,
Sally, (afterwards Columbine) Miss EGAN,
Widow Wiggins, Mr MILLER, Dame Dovepigbee, Mr TURNOUR,
Fat Farmer, Mr Griffiths, Spirit of Fire, Master Harvey,
Mons. Sulphuriate, (the Fire King) Mons. Arsenic,
Doctor, Mr Simpson, The Black Family, by the Messrs. White,
Venus, Miss RYALS, Cupid, Miss F. MARSHALL.

New Splendid Scenery.

Scene 1 The Palace of Vulcan (Grieve)—2 The Village of Robin's Nest on a Frosty Morning (Grieve)—3 A Landscape, with Æsop's Cottage (Grieve) 4 The Ruins of the Eagle Tower by Moonlight, in which is the Court of the Birds sitting in Judgment, with The Star of Venus (Grieve)—5 The Moving Palm Tree Grove (T. Grieve)—6 Cottage of a Market Gardener (W Grieve) 7 The Outside of the Green Man Inn (W. Grieve)—8 The Inclosure of St. James's Park and the Royal Palace (T. Grieve)—9 The Spread Eagle Tavern, and Baker's Shop (Finley)—10 The Bake-House (Finley)—11 The Fire King's Exhibition Room (Finley)—12 Covent Garden Market (Pugh) 13 New Covent Garden Market by Moonlight (Pugh)—14 The Watch-house (Finley)—15 View on the River Thames, with Westminster Abbey, from the Boat House (T. Grieve)—16 The Picture Gallery (W. Grieve)—17 The Saloon of the New Bazaar, Oxford Street (Finley)—18 ROBERTS's MOVING DIORAMA OF THE POLAR EXPEDITION, representing the progress of the Hecla and Fury, in their endeavours to discover a North-West Passage, beginning with—1 Deptford—2 Discovery Prison Ship—3 Greenwich—4 Long Reach—5 Gravesend—6 A Line-of-Battle Ship off Sheerness—7 The Nore—8 The Ocean by Moonlight—9 Hecla and Fury off Cape Farewell—10 Hudson's Bay—11 Baffin's Bay—12 Melville Island, with Total Loss of the Fury—13 Final Arrival of the Hecla in the Bay of Jedde. 19 The Cave of Jamza (Grieve)—20 Palace and Bower of Venus (Grieve)